

1           25.     A system in accordance with Claim 24, further comprising a vacuum  
2     source in fluid communication with said of said tissue acquisition device inner  
3     cannula main lumen.

1           26.     A system in accordance with Claim 25, further comprising a tissue  
2     collector fluidly between said vacuum source and said tissue acquisition device inner  
3     cannula main lumen.

1           27.     A method of sampling tissue from a patient, comprising the steps:  
2                     inserting a cannula into tissue of a patient, said cannula including a  
3     pair of concentric cannulae each having a cutout therein, said cannula including a RF  
4     energy cutting loop disposed within said cannula;  
5                     cutting said tissue along a plane by moving said RF energy cutting  
6     loop from a position inside said cannula to a position outside said cannula while  
7     applying RF energy to said RF energy cutting loop;  
8                     cutting said tissue by moving said RF energy cutting loop along a first  
9     path extending partially along the length of said cannula while applying RF energy to  
10    said RF energy cutting loop; and  
11                    cutting said tissue along a plane perpendicular to said path by moving  
12    said RF energy cutting loop.

1           28.     A method of sampling tissue from a patient in accordance with Claim  
2     27, wherein one of said steps of cutting said tissue along a plane comprises moving  
3     said RF energy cutting loop from said outside position to said inside position while  
4     applying RF energy to said RF energy cutting loop.

1           29.     A method of sampling tissue from a patient in accordance with Claim  
2     27, wherein one of said steps of cutting said tissue along a plane comprises moving  
3     said RF energy cutting loop and said cannula about a longitudinal center axis of said  
4     cannula.

1           30.     A method of sampling tissue from a patient in accordance with Claim  
2     29, further comprising cutting said tissue by moving said RF energy cutting loop  
3     along a second path extending parallel to said first path and in a direction opposite to  
4     said cutting step along said first path by moving said RF energy cutting loop along a  
5     said second path partially along the length of said cannula while applying RF energy  
6     to said RF energy cutting loop.

1           31.     A method of sampling tissue from a patient in accordance with Claim  
2     27, further comprising:  
3                   rotating one of said concentric cannulae to substantially align said  
4     cutouts; and

5                   said step of cutting said tissue along a plane by moving said RF energy  
6   cutting loop from a position inside said cannula to a position outside said cannula  
7   comprises the step of rotating said cutting loop out of said cannula.

1           32.    A method of sampling tissue from a patient in accordance with Claim  
2   27, further comprising:

3                   aspirating a tissue sample proximally through a lumen of an inner  
4   cannula of said concentric cannulae.

1           33.    A method of sampling tissue from a patient in accordance with Claim  
2   27, wherein both of said steps of cutting said tissue along a plane comprises moving  
3   said RF energy cutting loop between said outside position and said inside position  
4   while applying RF energy to said RF energy cutting loop.

1           34.    A tissue acquisition device useful in retrieving tissue samples from a  
2   patient, comprising:

3                   a generally cylindrical cannula having a longitudinal axis and a cutout;

4                   an electrically energized cutting wire loop arranged generally in a

5   plane substantially parallel to said cannula longitudinal axis, said loop being rotatable

6   about a loop axis which extends generally parallel to said cannula longitudinal axis,

7   said loop axis being offset from said cannula longitudinal axis;